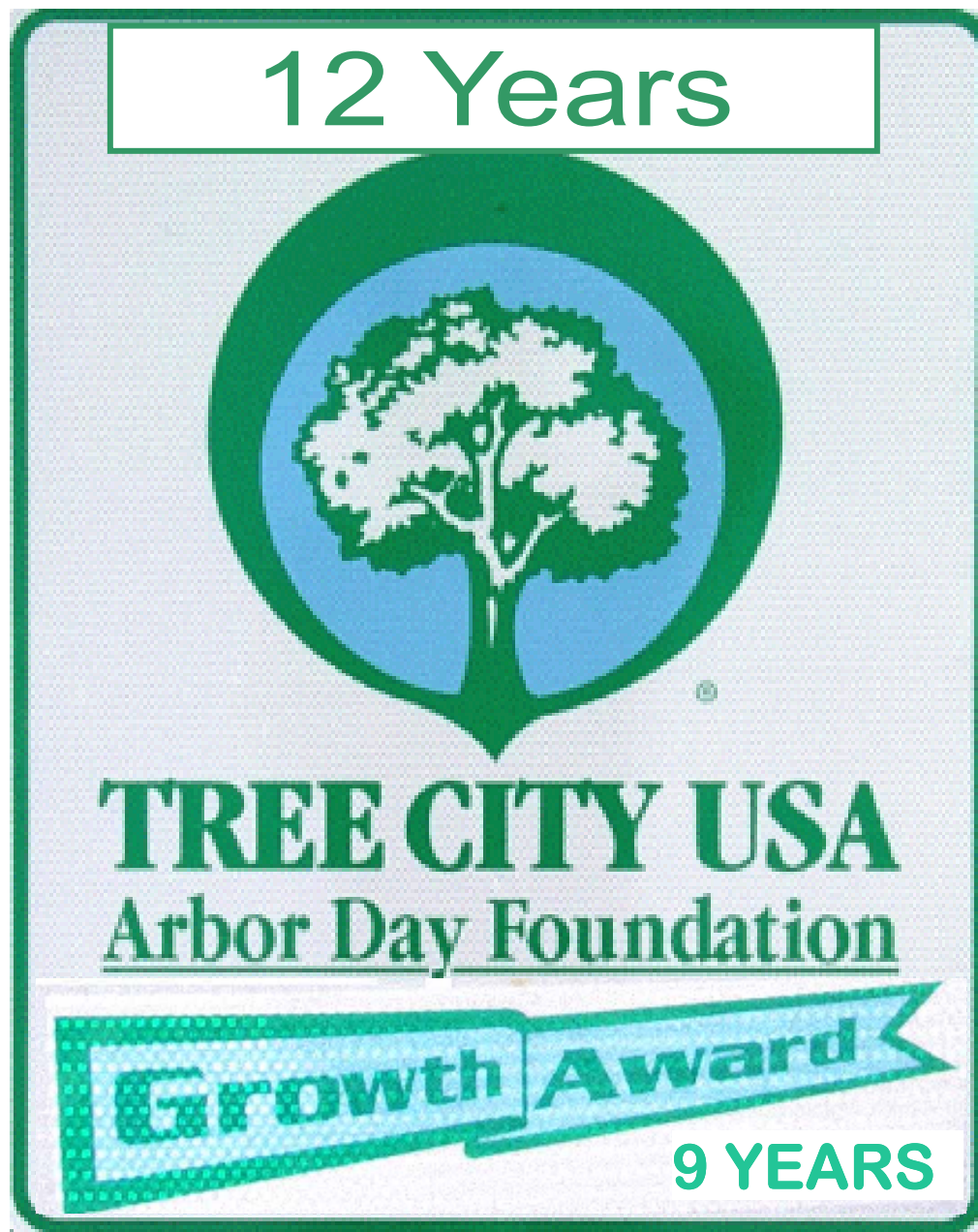


2011 Annual Report

Department of Urban Forestry & Evansville Tree Advisory Board



Introduction & History

The general goals of the Evansville Urban Forestry program are to improve the quality of life for Evansville residents through increasing the number of trees and improving tree health and longevity through improved public tree care, Arborist (tree pruner's) Licensing, and public education.

Specifically, trees benefit Evansville by:

- ✿ **Increasing property values** – Property values can be increased by as much as 27% (Tree City USA Bulletin #28), which can increase the city tax base.
- ✿ **Lowering energy costs** – Trees can reduce utility bills through evapotranspiration and shading buildings in the summer, and reducing cold winds in the winter.
- ✿ **Intercepting rain water and lower soil erosion** – Trees intercept rain water before reaching the ground. This greatly reduces the amount of storm water that reaches public storm water facilities, therefore lowering storm water facility costs.
- ✿ **Reducing air and water pollution** – Trees clean our air and water through taking up particulates through natural gas and liquid exchanges, which provides a healthy environment for our citizens.
- ✿ **Improving quality of life** – Trees are relaxing to people by providing aesthetic beauty, recreation and the overall feeling of psychological well being. Trees can help reduce mental fatigue and aggressions, therefore increasing social interactions and lowering crime rates. This can result in a better overall appeal of the city to its residents and visitors.

No management plan can exist without knowledge of what resources exist. The Urban forestry office has an inventory of public and street trees, for which there are now over 12,000 recorded. Using USDA software, we were able to take the inventory and find our annual benefits gained from trees of \$692,906.89 resulting from energy reduction, CO2 reduction, air quality improvement, stormwater reduction and beautification benefits.

This valuation does not include trees in forested areas. Our department has estimated from aerial photographs that over 3000 acres of forested areas exist within the city limits on both public and private property. Benefits gained from forested areas have few costs, since they do not have to be managed. The valuation does not include trees on private property. A majority of the trees in Evansville are on private property, therefore the valuation that we gain from trees in Evansville is significantly greater than the estimates given above.

Without a board and department to manage the urban forestry programs, these benefits would diminish greatly. The Department of Urban Forestry and Tree Advisory board is currently working towards maintaining an inventory of public and street trees, planting the right trees in the right places, proper pruning, protection/preservation of trees/greenspace where appropriate and education of the public concerning tree care.

Evansville Tree Advisory Board

Established in 2001, the board consists of seven voluntary members. The duties and accomplishments of the board are as follows:

- 🌳 Provide regular and special meetings for tree related issues.
- 🌳 Facilitate the replanting of removed trees, and assist with the development and execution of tree-planting programs.
- 🌳 Communicate and assist other city and government offices, not-for-profits groups and citizens of the municipality concerning trees.
- 🌳 Enforce the Evansville Tree Ordinance, issue permits and govern all aspects of the City's Arborist Licensing program according to the ordinance.
- 🌳 Recommend and approve to be removed any public tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or is injurious to utilities, public improvements or other trees.



Department of Urban forestry

The Evansville Department of Urban Forestry was established and began operations in 2001 under the Department of Transportation and Services. The department consists of four full time tree crew workers, and is managed by the Evansville City Arborist, whose duties are:

- 🌳 Accomplishing the day to day activities of hazard tree and tree limb removal, and removing tree debris created by storms from improved public right of ways.
- 🌳 Maintaining and updating the existing inventory of public and street trees.
- 🌳 Supervising the Arborist Licensing program, and administering fines for non-compliance.
- 🌳 Inspecting and making recommendations for public tree issues, as well as planning, performing and assisting with public tree plantings.
- 🌳 Recertifying for annual Tree City USA status and planning and supervision of annual Arbor Day event.
- 🌳 Educating the public regarding proper tree planting and care.
- 🌳 Managing the Department's fiscal budget, recommending an annual budget and applying for grant funding.

Monthly Report—2011

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Trees Removed	3	5		4	5	1	1	5	2		3	1	30
Board Approved Removals *			1	61			6	6			105		179
Individual Trees Pruned	16			3	7	2	8	23	20	10	7		96
Street Trees Pruned (feet)		2500		700				800					4000
Boulevards Pruned (feet)		1000											1000
Alleys Pruned (per block)							7	11	7		2		27
Brush Cleared (feet)	300			300									600
Stumps Ground		3									16	40	59
Trees Transplanted											24	16	40
Tree Planted			105									18	123
Assisted other plantings				70									70
Board Approved Plantings *			14	120			16	12			245		407
Debris Pick Up			3		1	4	4	4	1	2			19
# Storms generating debris			1	4	5	6	2			1			19
# Debris locations			1	40	94	6	2			1			144
Tree Pruners Fined				1									1
Public Seminars	1	1		4			1			1			8

*Plantings & Removals approved by Tree Advisory Board on facilities managed by other government departments for trees on public property.

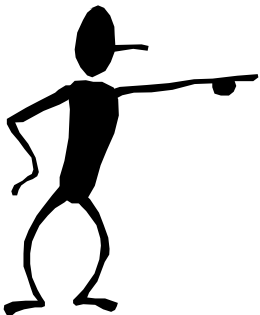
Tree Planting/Removal ratio: 2.87

2011 Accomplishments

- ✿ Continued Arbor Day Ceremonies, and maintained the City's Tree City USA status for the 12th consecutive year. Received Growth Award for 9th consecutive year.
- ✿ Assisted Levee Authority in getting prices for, ordering, storing, and finding public planting locations for 508 trees that were planted for the mitigation of trees removed along a Levee toe improvement project between November 2011 and April 2012.
- ✿ Assisted in a cooperative effort between Keep Evansville Beautiful, Vectren and the Department of Urban Forestry with the planting of 120 trees for a ReLeaf tree planting effort. Most of trees were planted in an area between I-164 and Washington Avenue, and between US41 and southeast Riverside Drive.
- ✿ Completed updating an inventory of public and street trees in Evansville. Inventory now includes trees in Golf Courses, which were not on inventory before. Number of trees inventories has gone up from 10,000, to over 12,000.

Other Accomplishments since 2001

- ✿ Reduced tree topping in Evansville though public education and education of local tree companies.
- ✿ Conducted City's Arborist Licensing program and are currently providing the required Ordinance Compliance seminars for the program at no additional cost to local tree companies.
- ✿ Placed and maintained an inventory on public and street trees on a GIS web site.
- ✿ Developed and updated Arboricultural Specifications Manual and Landscape Guidelines. Proposed guidelines to be used in contractual tree planting for new public developments.
- ✿ Developed the Urban Forestry Management Plan, Emergency Tree Debris Removal Plan, and an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan.
- ✿ Maintained a positive 2 for 1 tree planting ratio since the beginning of the program



- ✂ Tree planting/removal ratio for 2011 = 600 planted / 209 removed = 2.87 trees planted for each tree removed in 2010.
- ✂ Tree planting/removal ration for since 2001 = 2,148 planted / 889 removed = 2.41 trees planted for each tree removed since 2001.

Goals for 2012

- ✿ Establish consistent standards for tree maintenance and planting on state properties in Evansville through adoption of a memorandum of understanding with Indiana Department of Transportation.
- ✿ Developing a tree program to get 2012 trees planted for the city's Bicentennial.
- ✿ Developing a program to award a commercial development for outstanding tree planting efforts beyond the requirements of the parking lot landscaping code.
- ✿ Seek grants funds for tree plantings.

Continuous Goals

- ✿ Maintaining our status as a Tree City USA community. The following requirements are needed to maintain the Tree City USA status:
 - ✿ Maintaining a minimum of \$2 per capita for the purpose of management of trees.
 - ✿ Having an active tree board, department, and arborist to manage the program.
 - ✿ Enforcing an active ordinance to help protect existing public trees.
 - ✿ Hosting an annual Arbor Day Celebration.
- ✿ Creating new programs to maintain Tree City USA Growth Award status.
- ✿ Organizing and Conducting annual Arbor Day Celebrations.
- ✿ Planting, pruning, and removing trees where needed for public safety.
- ✿ Supporting and coordinating between vital government agencies and Not-for-profit groups concerning trees.
- ✿ Developing programs and activities for public education and involvement for tree planting and care in the community.
- ✿ Enforcement of the City's Tree Ordinance, commercial tree pruner's licensure, Arboricultural Specifications Manual and the Emergency Tree Debris Management Plan.
- ✿ Monitor for Emerald Ash Borer and initiate established plan when it is found in Evansville.
- ✿ Continue to replace trees in public areas as they die or outgrow their space.

In addition to these programs, we are always coming up with new programs, and are always open to comments and suggestions.

2/27/11

Workshop teaches participants best practices for trimming plants

Pruning bears its benefits

Grant Hartman, left, president of Hartman Arboretum, uses a lopper while pruning a maple tree as Evansville City Arborist Shawn Dickerson, center, offers advice during a free pruning demonstration at Hartman Arboretum in Evansville on Saturday.



JASON CLARK / Courier & Press

JARED COUNCIL

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The blueberry bushes at the Hartman Arboretum have been producing fruit for the past 32 years, and they're showing no signs of slowing down. They had a notable 2010, Arboretum President Grant Hartman said, with people picking more than 1,000 pounds of berries in four weeks between late May and early June.

"We think that's a pretty good amount for that age of bush," Hartman said. He credits one thing to their success — proper pruning.

About 30 people gathered at Hartman's Arboretum on Saturday morning for a pruning demonstration Hartman hosted with the Purdue Extension of Vanderburgh County. Their goal, they said, was to educate the public on the benefits of pruning and the proper methods for doing so.

"Pruning is the selective re-

moval of individual branches that are unwanted or defective," said Larry Caplan, an Extension educator who led most of the demonstration.

Pruning serves several purposes. It allows air and sunlight to access most of the shrub or tree, Caplan said, helping decrease the prospect of infection.

Pruning increases the plant's longevity in other ways, too. Removing weak or dying branches allows the plant to focus growth on what's healthy and strong. Also if weak or dying branches remain, they may damage other branches by falling.

Pruning also can also aid in a plant or landscape's appearance.

"You might have a branch that's growing into your window," Caplan said.

One of the points Caplan, Hartman and others stressed is that pruning is not indiscriminate cutting. The term for that is topping, and it's not recommended.

Among other things, topping can create what's called

a "witch's broom," which looks like it sounds — one long branch with a bunch of smaller branches emanating from its end.

"Improper pruning, such as topping, will ruin the shape of the plant, and all future growth will be weak and undesirable," Caplan said.

Using different examples such as peach trees, raspberry bushes and spreading junipers, the demonstrators gave several methods for proper pruning, including "heading back" and making a "triple cut."

Heading back encourages cutting right before buds to direct growth, and the triple cut is meant to prevent the wound that results when a person saws a branch from the top and fit all before the cut is finished, stripping bark from the remainder of the branch and possibly the trunk.

The demonstrators also gave other tips, suggesting that people prune branches that cross, and cutting the entire stem of a raspberry plant that bore fruit, but

not the ones that haven't yet.

The speakers also discussed kinds of good tools to buy as well as how to use them. They also talked about which tools to avoid.

"Do not buy bow saws," said Evansville City Arborist Shawn Dickerson, "unless you want to cut down a Christmas tree."

Without pruning, Hartman said, blueberry bushes will experience good yields for about 10 years. But the techniques have helped his plants produce abundant yields for more than 30.

In addition to strong plants and good yields, pruning can also save money.

In a tip about blueberry bushes, Hartman said, "If you (prune) one third each year, by three years, you've completely renovated the whole plant."

Bob Will, 70, said he's seen the results of renovation.

"It's very economical," said the Haubstadt, Ind., resident who's been gardening for some 40 years. "They last a lot longer."

Emerald ash borer nearby

City taking some steps to get ready



Associated Press archives



TOP: This undated photo provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shows an adult emerald ash borer.

LEFT: Evansville City Arborist Shawn Dickerson scrapes bark from an ash tree Monday to look for the emerald ash borer. The bug has been found in Jasper, Ind., but has not yet made it to Evansville.

MOLLY BARTELS / Courier & Press

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On Monday morning, David Straka answered the front door of his Mount Auburn-area home to a familiar face.

It was Evansville City Arborist Shawn Dickerson, who wasn't exactly looking for human interaction.

"We came to look at that ash tree," Dickerson told Straka as he peered around the corner of the home.

"Like I've said before, it probably doesn't have the emerald ash borer, but we want to check."

With the reports of emer-



ald ash borers about 60 miles away in Jasper, Ind., Dickerson said the city may still have time to prepare for its arrival. The creature was first identified in

southeast Michigan. There is some evidence to indicate it emigrated from China as early as 1980 in wooden shipping material, according to Dickerson and

Dickerson prepares to pull a larva from an ash tree to see if it is a borer, a parasite that plagues ash trees. The larva proved not to be a borer.

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials.

But its exact arrival date and how to stop it are unknown, Dickerson said.

"The reason why it's hard to say (when it arrived in the U.S.) is because, naturally, it moves two miles a year," he said.

"But it moves through firewood, so that could be quicker. There's really no way to tell."

A recent audit revealed that of the 10,000 trees in public areas around Evansville, about 700 of them are ash trees.

"We've thought of possibly — possibly — removing all of the ash trees," Dickerson said.

EMERALD

Continued from Page A1

But hope may be on the horizon. Officials at the USDA said a wasp from China being tested around the

Great Lakes Region could be the borer's mortal competition. Also, an ash treatment program developed by one metro Detroit community has shown results, officials there said.

USDA spokeswoman

Sharon Lucik said the emerald ash borer was first discovered in 2002 in Wayne County, Mich. At the time, there was little information about the shimmering green beetle, which led to massive research projects. But at

that point, thousands of ash trees already were dying, Lucik said.

"At first it was a question of why all the ash trees were dying," she said. "It wasn't until individuals started connecting the dots that it wasn't just a phenomenon. Ash trees were just dying by the hundreds."

Emerald borer larva feed on the life-giving cells of the tree just beneath the bark. In a couple of years, the top portion of the tree will begin to die. The rest will succumb in about four years, Dickerson said.

It still is not clear where the emerald borer first landed. Shortly after the first one was discovered in Michigan, another report surfaced in Canada, she said.

State and federal quarantines were placed on moving material such as hardwood, firewood and ash products across Michigan and its state lines.

Lucik said USDA officials will not pull over someone who may be violating these quarantines.

"It's really about educating the public," she said. "What we're trying to do is change behavior."

Similar quarantines exist in Indiana, he said.

A website maintained by the USDA and Michigan State University shows that virtually the northeastern corner of the country has

taken reports about the emerald borer. Maps show Michigan has been hit the hardest. Dickerson also said the maps show that most reports were taken along major roadways.

"Those are ways people are taking home," Dickerson said.

One of the most common ways people help the beetle cover ground is through firewood.

"Someone may go camping and want to take their firewood home with them," he said.

Lucik added it is crucial that people know where their firewood originated. The USDA even certifies firewood for sale.

Jonathan Lelito, facility manager for a USDA lab in Brighton, Mich., said his agency is testing three types of a wasp that feeds on emerald ash borer larva. The impact of the tiny, stingless wasps was tested on the U.S. ecosystem before experimental release began, Lelito said.

"There was no significant impact," he said.

Last summer, the USDA began distributing the experimental wasps to states around the Midwest. Though it was too early to tell if they will be successful, data collected during analysis in China were promising. Generally, the wasps attack up to 60 percent of the emerald

borer eggs and larva in an area.

"We're hoping for fairly significantly more mortality here," he said.

Dickerson said preventive treatment on ash trees in the area would be unaffordable and indefinite. But officials in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., said their method has been affordable. Terry Brennan, Grosse Pointe Farms director of public service said he has spent up to \$28,000 annually to treat its roughly 600 ash trees over the past eight years. As of Monday, 560 had survived, he said.

"So far, it's been a great temporary fix until something more permanent comes along."

Also a new treatment Brennan plans to deploy would require servicing trees every three years and costs a fraction of the annual version.

"We've had really good success up here," he said.

Dickerson said some of the more significant ash trees could go through preventive treatment. But the cost to treat all public ash trees for an indefinite period could be too much for the city budget, he said.

Dickerson added a plan to tackle the bug has been created, not yet completed.

"We've braced ourselves," he said. "We've prepared for it."

Storm cleanup keeping chain saws buzzing



JASON CLARK / Courier & Press

Rick Lannan of Lannan Tree Service cuts down limbs that were hitting a home owned by Jerry Noble on Williamsburg Court in New-

burgh on Thursday. Local tree companies have been busy removing fallen trees and cleaning up debris from last week's storm.

Tree business booming

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Cary Lannan of Lannan Tree Service removes a tree limb in the yard of Jerry Noble on Williamsburg Court in Newburgh on Thursday.

Best Tree Service of Evansville has been putting in long hours to keep up with tree cleanup calls since last week's storm. It even has postponed regular contract work, but the company, like others, is still running behind.

The May 25 storm included severe thunderstorms, wind gusts measured at 74 mph and isolated tornadoes. The tree damage in the region is "extensive," said Lew Tuggle, owner of Best Tree Service.

"At first glance, (the storm)

didn't seem that bad, but the more I get out here and the more I see, it was very destructive," he said.

Local tree service companies are working to whittle down waiting lists as they continue to battle branches and fallen trees left over from the storm.

Best Tree Service has been providing estimates to people in emergency situations within 24 hours, but it's taking from five to seven days to remove that debris, Tuggle said.

"Emergency work is usually the next day, but not during a storm — you've got to wait a little bit," Tuggle said.

CLEAN UP / Page A11

TREE CLEANUP

Late calls to Evansville's Urban Forestry Department for road clearance after a storm have "always been the biggest thing that hampers us when we have a major storm like this," said Shawn Dickerson, city arborist. "Sometimes that's why it

takes us so long to do what we have to do, because things don't get reported until much later."

This was the case with a couple of roads the city is clearing this week, Dickerson said.

By the end of today, "all roads should be open,"

said Ed Ziemer, executive director of the Department of Transportation and Services.

The city is finishing clearing four streets this week and will clear an alleyway on Monday, Ziemer said.



JASON CLARK / Courier & Press

Rick Lannan of Lannan Tree Service removes limbs that were hitting a home owned by Jerry Noble on Williamsburg Court in Newburgh

on Thursday. Local tree companies have been busy removing fallen trees and cleaning up debris from last week's storm.

CLEAN UP

Continued from Page A1

The company is removing nonemergency debris between 10 and 14 days after it provides estimates to homeowners, Tuggle said.

"Each day when we go out, we tell (people) that the waiting list is going to get longer and longer because of the storm," Tuggle said, adding that the quicker people sign contracts, the quicker their jobs will be taken care of.

American Eagle Tree Service in Dale, Ind., has received "several hundred calls" about tree cleanup since the storm, said owner Judy Oran.

"Roughly, I would say we've probably done ... 200 estimates, and I am sure we are at the point of over 100 jobs," Oran said.

The company has been fo-

cusing on clearing hazardous situations, including those in which trees have fallen on houses and garages, Oran said.

"We're working just as fast as we can, but you know, we can't get to everybody quick enough," Oran said.

Customers previously on a list for "regular work unfortunately have to be patient and wait for us to get the emergencies done so we can try to get back to the regular schedule," Oran said.

Between 25 and 30 people are on the company's list as needing cleanup work completed "as quickly as possible," Oran said.

For the people whose debris hasn't caused property damage, "they may need to check around if we can't get to them quick enough," she said, adding that the company would be "happy to help them."

"Sometime, hopefully, within the next week we'll get the worst of the worst done," Oran said, adding that the company will move on to debris cleanup after that. "I'm hoping so, but we keep getting new calls every day."

Some people wait until their insurance adjusters "can come out and see things," Oran said.

Family-owned Lannan Tree Service in Evansville has been receiving at least 10 calls per day since the storm, said Cary Lannan.

The company is "about a week behind," and it will probably take about a month to complete the jobs on its waiting list, Lannan said.

"I've still got probably 40 or 50 estimates out there," he said. "People are telling me that the insurance companies are so backed up."

Lannan Tree Service has completed about 30 jobs and looked at between 70 and 80. It also provided free services to about 10 older people who had trees on their power lines, Lannan said.

"If you can help out somebody, I believe it always comes back around to you," he said.

H&R Tree Service in Evansville has a 24-hour emergency cleanup crew, and "so far, we've been able to keep up with everything," said owner Brandon Hay.

"We look at the jobs that could be imminent danger to someone's home or property, and then we take care of those first," Hay said.

H&R Tree Service has been sticking to its policy of same-day estimates and has been working to complete jobs within the week they're asked to begin, Hay said.

Sometime, hopefully, within the next week we'll get the worst of the worst done. I'm hoping so, but we keep getting new calls every day."

— American Eagle Tree Service owner Judy Oran

YEAR OF TREES

'2012 Trees by 2012'
Super Bowl Tree Planting includes Evansville's riverfront LOCAL 4A

2

Friday
December 2011

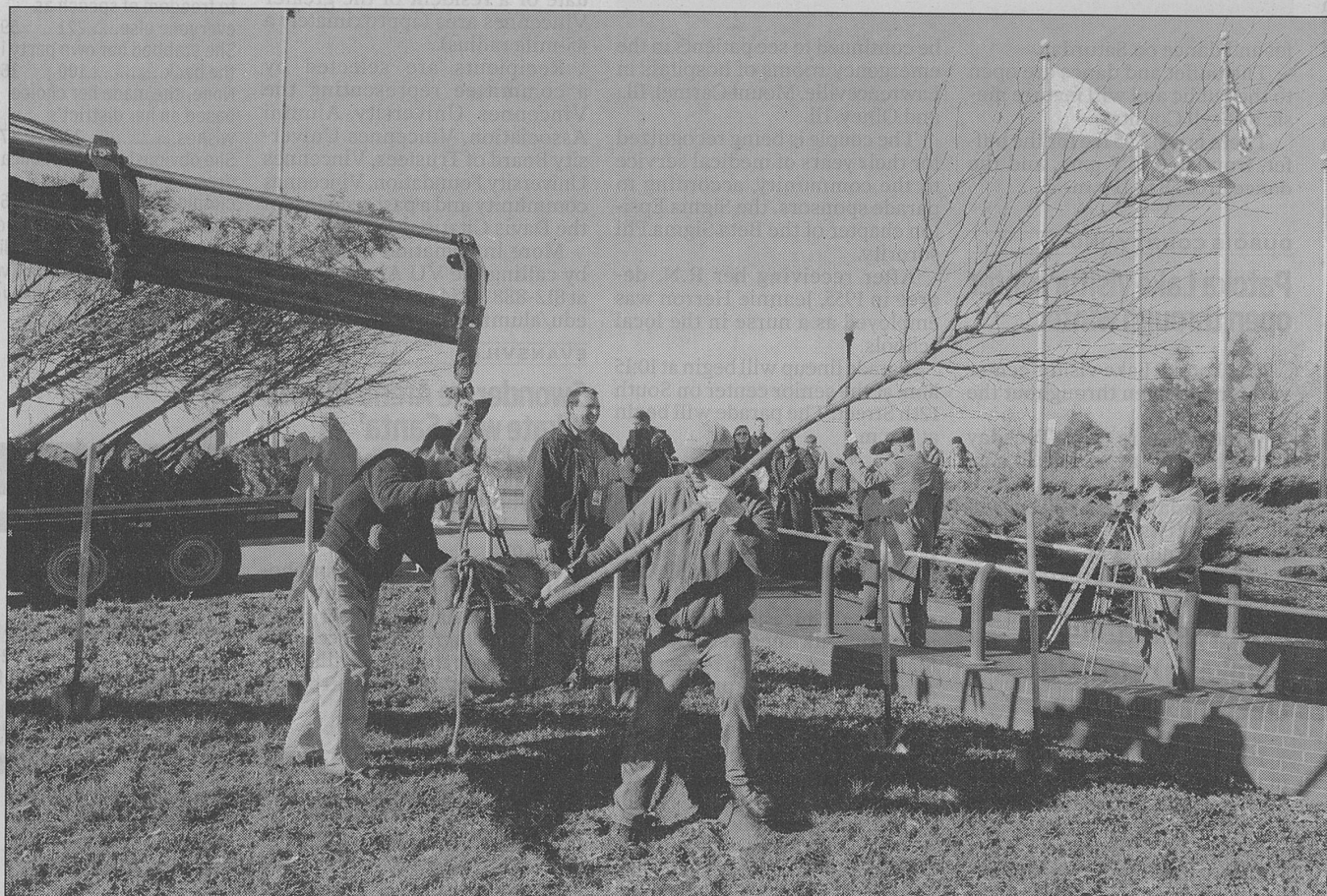


46° / 31°
Partly sunny

75 cents

Evansville COURIER & PRESS

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JASON CLARK / COURIER & PRESS

Evansville Department of Urban Forestry employees Gary Mitchell, left, and Luke Cron move a Canada red select cherry tree donated by the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee Thursday, before a news conference and tree-planting ceremony along with members of the 2012 Super Bowl Green Corps near the Korean War Memorial along Riverside Drive in Evansville. A total of 23 trees will be planted along the Riverfront: 10 Canada red select cherry trees donated by the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee, seven bald cypress trees provided by the city and six more Canada red selects provided by the Weed & Seed Garden Club.

Trees to leave a lasting Super Bowl legacy

■ 23 donated trees to bring state pre-game excitement

By John Martin
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Evansville's Riverfront has some towering new additions, courtesy of the Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee.

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel on Thursday announced the committee donated 10 Canada red select cherry trees for planting at the Korean Memorial, near the Four Freedoms monument.

Those trees — along with six more Canada red selects donated by the Weed & Seed Garden Club and seven bald cypress trees donated by the city — arrived at the Riverfront on Thursday on a flatbed truck and were in the ground a short time later.

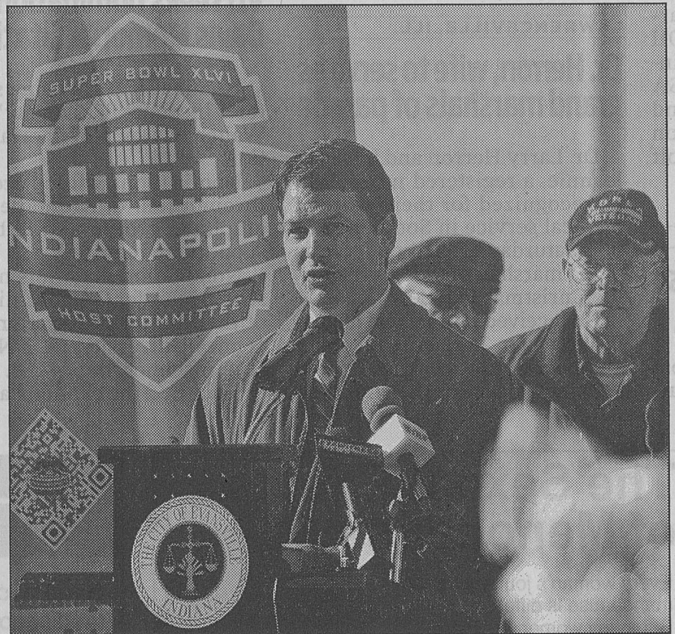
In addition, the Super Bowl

Committee donated eight other trees for planting near the Asian exhibit at Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden.

The committee has striven to involve the whole state in pre-Super Bowl excitement, and trees will be a lasting memorial to the game, said Summer Keown, manager of environmental programs for the Super Bowl committee.

The committee is donating 2,012 trees for the Indianapolis area alone and a few hundred more throughout Indiana.

Youth volunteers assisted City Arborist Shawn Dickerson and his staff with getting the trees into the ground. Katelyn Hurt of Harrison High School, Ryan Dick of Mount Vernon High School and J.D. Volz of Boonville High School, who are local teen representatives on the Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee's 1st and Green initiative, were there Thursday morning. So were members of the National Honor Society at Harrison.



Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is joined by representatives of the 2012 Indianapolis Super Bowl Host Committee, Korean War Veterans, Evansville Department of Urban Forestry and members of the Weed & Seed Garden Club and the 2012 Super Bowl Green Corps at a news conference and tree-planting ceremony Thursday near the Korean War Memorial.